

Springfield News and Views

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DUGALD FLOODING AND THE TRAIN WHITSLE

The likelihood and severity of flooding is based on the shape, location, elevation and the soil profile of land. The amount of water the ground can absorb is based on the type of soil. Regions with very compact or clay-rich soil are more prone to flooding. We have allocated \$15,000.00 this year towards a drainage study for this area for the reason of ongoing drainage problems. The forecast is to start on the project in 2009. Recently the majority of council voted in favor of an agreement with the Canadian National Railway which would see CN solely complete major improvements to the culverts and drains under the tracks at Highway #206. Also included is for CN to improve the main ditches in this general vicinity of the tracks, again at the railway's expense. I have also asked the Cooks Creek Conservation District for their assistance in resolving the outstanding flooding/drainage concerns in the town of Dugald. We also were able to negotiate to have an engineering study performed at the total cost of CN which will result in possibility of no more train whistles through the town of Dugald in the near future, at the Highway #206 crossing. I will provide further updates in these projects as work progresses and the respective studies reach completion.

YOU OWN TEN THOUSAND ACRES

The RM of Springfield owns approximately 10,560 acres of land which is about 4% of the total land (271016 acres) in the municipality. The land includes parks, sports fields, green spaces, building holdings, cemeteries, sewage lagoons, marginal, fields, pasture, forest, and ecological properties. The majority of the land is in 160 acre parcels also referred to as quarter sections. Some of the land is leased to individuals through agreements which have just recently been renewed. We have increased the rates we charge for these parcels and have restrictions in place which limit the type of activities. Most parcels are leased for agriculture purposes such as growing crops and/or pastures for livestock. We will review a few residential lots (under 5 acres) throughout the RM which could be sold on the open market if they are deemed to have no future municipal use.